

Justice and the Marginalized

Bible Background: Deuteronomy 24:10-21

Devotional Reading: 3 John 1:2-8

Aim for Change (Page 236):

1. EXPLORE God's standards for justice
 2. APPRECIATE how God loves those who are poor and marginalized
 3. SHARE love with those who are rejected by others
-

Discuss the Meaning (Page 240):

- *If you have money or status (in a position to lead others), do you think that you are more important than someone else?*
 - *How does God deal with our ego and classism (prejudice against or in favor of people belonging to a particular social class)?*
 - *How does Jesus' bodily sacrifice coincide with an unredeemable debt? (John 3:16-21)*
-

The People, Places, and Times (Page 239):

- Deuteronomy is one of the most significant books of the OT
 - Quoted in Psalms (68 times); Isaiah (55 times); NT (Over 40 times)
 - Jesus quoted Deuteronomy when He was tempted by Satan during His time in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4)
 - Knowing the word of God will help to protect you against the enemy and help you to make fair judgment towards the marginalized (Psalm 37:31, 119:11; Joshua 1:7-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - *Are you letting the world distract you from being in God's word (Biblical Instruction Before Leaving Earth)?*
-

More Light on the Text (Page 241):

- The book of Deuteronomy reveals many attributes of God, which is why it's one of the most significant in the OT
 - Jealous (4:24) – Exodus 20:5; Isaiah 42:8
 - Faithful (7:9) – Isaiah 49:7; 1 Corinthians 1:9, 10:13
 - Loving (7:13) – John 14:21
 - Holy (26:15) – Zechariah 2:13; Isaiah 63:15
 - Merciful (4:31) – Exodus 34:6; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 9:31; Jonah 4:2
 - Angered by sin (6:15) – Deuteronomy 7:4, 11:17); jealousy also mentioned in verse
 - The Focal Verses – Deuteronomy 24:10-21 are some of the laws God established to protect the disenfranchised
-

Background (Page 239):

- God's laws are the framework for how we are to govern ourselves
- Our understanding and ability or lack thereof to appropriately practice these laws have societal and divine consequences (Deuteronomy 24:15)
- *Why was there such an emphasis on the dignity of the marginalized?*

Justice and the Marginalized

Bible Background: Deuteronomy 24:10-21

Devotional Reading: 3 John 1:2-8

Focal Verses – Deuteronomy 24:10-21 (Page 238):

- (v. 10) – don't loan anyone anything and hold it over them (Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 15:2)
 - Debtors are already at a disadvantage to the loaner; it's not always money related
 - If it takes longer than expected for repayment, remember everything belongs to God
- (v. 14-15) – there's a difference between hired servant and servant
 - Don't cheat or take advantage of the less fortunate out of their earnings because they're in need as God hears their cry (Exodus 22:21-23; Leviticus 19:13)
 - Giving the poor work to perform and/or pantry for a fair day's wages/food shows respect as God has commanded (Proverbs 19:17, 22:9; Luke 14:13-14; 2 Corinthians 9:6)
- (v. 16) – everyone is responsible for their own sin (2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chronicles 25:4; Ezekiel 18:20)
 - There are not generational penalties for the crimes of the parents and vice versa from God, but we keep generational curses if we choose to remain in the same negative cycle that separate us from God (Galatians 3:10)
- (v. 17-21) – the continuation of dissection between the have and have nots
 - Don't forget where you came from (Deuteronomy 5:15; Romans 3:9-10, 23-24)
 - If you want to live life as God directed, love His people regardless of status – stranger, fatherless, and widow (Psalm 107:22, 118:17)
 - We are all created equal in the eyes of God so believers should not discriminate – (1 Peter 1:22, 2:17, 3:8)

Liberating Lesson (Page 241):

- God blesses us so that we can bless others (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)
 - If we're not obedient, then we must face the consequences (Deuteronomy 28:15-68)
- It's not a matter of keeping up with the Jones's or the mindset I worked hard to get what I have
 - It should be a mindset I have what I have cause of God and He provides for all (2 Corinthians 9:8-10)
- Invite those who may be less fortunate to Pantry Day on Tuesday's. Someone, somewhere, need food especially during these colder months?
 - Talk to neighbors, family, friends, and use social media (if applicable)
 - Help us do what God called us to do – serve without expecting anything in return

Pantry is now listed on the Home Page of the church website: <http://triedstonembc.com/index.html>

Pantry is also under Events on the church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TriedSMBC>